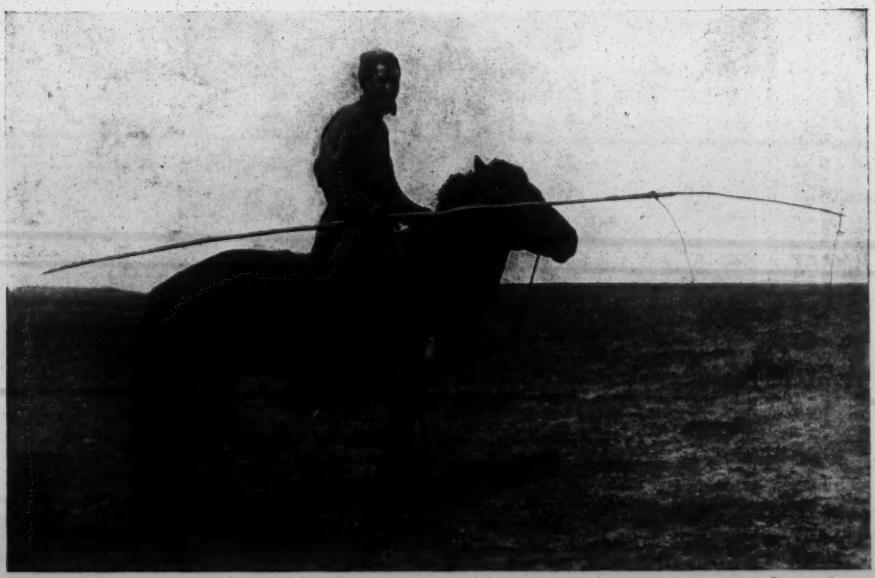
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 1921

1. Greece: New Nation of an Ancient People
2. Mongolia: Seeks to Throw Off Yoke of China
3. Anatolia Awakens From Sleep of Ages
4. San Marino Living Proof That Peace Endures
5. Noah Made It Famous: Wanted U. S. to Make It Free



A MONGOLIAN HORSEMAN

The pole with the slip-noose is used in place of the lariat, and is almost as effective. The rider drives into a herd and "cuts out" the horse he wants, drops the noose over his head and soon subdues him

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Bulletins are furnished by The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

Teachers may apply individually for them; principals may apply for copies for teachers (not for individual pupils at present) and for their school libraries. Superintendents desiring copies for their entire teaching staff should correspond with the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., as to methods of sending in quantities.

Tear off along this line if desired

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

Greece: New Nation of an Ancient People

THE question of succession to the throne of King Alexander of Greece turned world interest once more to southeastern Europe. The changes Greece has undergone territorially and the part it has played in the wars and crises of its corner of the world give rise to the query:

"What is Greece?"

In the light of the past the answer might well be tentative, for a definition of Greece's area at any time during the thousands of years of its history would have held good hardly for a quarter century; and in later years, so swift have been the changes in the new Greece, each decade has seen the fixing of new boundaries.

Greece "A Sea Surrounded by Land"

Not until modern times—except during the momentary empire of Alexander—has "Greece" meant a nation. In the Grecian Golden Age, as well as before and since, Greece was a house divided against itself. Its detailed history would mean the history of more than 150 separate states. And yet there was at all times some feeling of Hellenic nationality even though the rivalries among the various groups stood in the way of fusion into a single nation.

While Great Britain may be described as a land surrounded by seas, Greece may be said to be "a sea surrounded by land." The Hellenes have always been a sea-faring folk, and the Mediterranean sea and more particularly the Aegean have been their own particular "herring ponds." The islands of the eastern Mediterranean became Greek territory in their entirety, and this was true also of the island-like Peloponnesus and some other portions of the Greek peninsula. But equally important parts of Greece—or better, of the land of the Hellenes—were the settlements made by its mariners on the shores of the mainland that hem in the Mediterranean. These settlements constituted an unbroken fringe of Hellas along the shores of Asia Minor, and scattered communities on the shores of Italy, in Sicily, even in northern Africa and what is now southern France. This was the loose "Greece" or Hellas at its greatest—a domain of one people but of many states.

Greece Had League of Nations Against External Aggression

Greece gave the world its first League of Nations: the Delian League, organized in 447 B. C., by way of mutual protection against the "external aggression" of Persia, which had a sort of Berlin-to-Bagdad ambition of its own in those days. Athens was the only "principal power" in this league and was the recognized leader of the organization.

Later came the hegemony of Athens by force, the paradoxical empire of a democracy, bereft even of the trappings of monarchy. At this period and

UMI

THE MOST FAMOUS OF MOUNTAINS, MOUNT ARARAT, IN ARMENIA

The peaks seen in the picture are Great Ararat (17,000 feet) and Little Ararat (13,000 feet). They are about seven miles apart and formed the pre-war boundary of Russia, Persia, and Turkey, to each of which they partly belonged. Once this great mountain was beneath the sea. Whether our good father, Noah, was an oceanographer or not, he was a splendid navigator, landing his ship safely upon a mountain top whose crest is now more than three miles above high tide at Alexandretta

Tear off along this line if desired

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

Mongolia: Seeks to Throw Off Yoke of China

MONGOLIA, fighting along its eastern border to throw off the yoke of China once more, is one of the most interesting countries in the world today and also one of the most primitive, according to a communication to the National Geographic Society from Ethan C. Le Munyon:

"The inhabitants in many ways resemble our own North American Indians. They have a written language, are blindly devoted to the Buddhist religion, and are very fanatical. The lamas, or Buddhist monks, are the curse of Mongolia and are parasites living on the religious credulity of their lay brethren. Every third man in Mongolia is a Lama.

"The highlands of Mongolia vary in altitude from 3,000 to 5,500 feet. There are many mountain ranges, and in very few places is the country level for any considerable distance. The word Gobi means a 'barren or desolate plain.' Vegetation is absent on the Gobi desert, with the exception of a few grasses, so that argol (or dried camel dung) is the only fuel used. It is collected and stored in large quantities for use during the winter.

Camel Only Animal That Can Cross Desert

"Water is scarce, a few wells along the caravan route furnishing the entire supply. During the winter and spring the camel is the only animal that can cross the desert and subsist on the dried-up grasses. At this season of the year blocks of ice are carried for the water supply, and at other seasons two large tubs are carried on each camel, used for this purpose, one tub on each side of the camel.

"The medium of exchange is the Chinese tael (an ounce of silver). Small squares or cubes of pressed silk are also used, but brick tea will pass current for barter in any part of Mongolia. Tobacco is also used for this purpose. The trade is in the hands of the Chinese, with the exception of the Russian traders in Urga. There is a Russian and also a Chinese post office in Urga. Both maintain a pony express route across the Gobi; the time is 7 days.

Mutton the Chief Diet of the Mongol

"The Mongol is a great meat eater, living in some cases entirely on mutton. In comparing other foods, he will ask if they are as good as mutton. It is not uncommon for a Mongol to consume 10 pounds of this meat at one sitting. He puts mutton fat in his tea, which is prepared with milk from the brick tea (poorest grade pressed in bricks), and of this he drinks enormous quantities; 30 cups per day is not an uncommon amount for an adult. There are no regular hours for eating; the native eats when opportunity offers. Game is not common near Urga, but many varieties are found in the mountains, though hunting on Bogda Ol (Buddha's Mountain) is prohibited.

UMI

under what may be termed the empires of Sparta and Thebes, a close approach to a Greek nation may be said to have existed; but in none of these eras were most of the territories peopled by Greeks included, and even large parts of the Greek peninsula itself were governed by other Hellenic states. For a brief period under Alexander the Great, Greece reached the status of a nation, but it was a fusion forced by a virtual outsider and contained much territory inhabited by others than Greeks; and on the death of the great military genius the Hellenes separated again into numerous governmental units.

Greece, expanding from the city state, had comprised for a moment almost the whole civilized world; but the great dilation was followed by an equally great contraction. Greece fell under the rising power of Rome, and became a mere province in the empire to the west.

The military ability and power of the Greeks died under the Roman yoke; but when the Eastern Empire was formed with Constantinople as its seat, Greek culture conquered where Greek arms could not, and Byzantium became in reality a great Greek state. Once more the territory that, by construction at least, can be regarded as Greece, spread outward until it held within its boundaries much of southeastern Europe. It is on reviving the glory of this period in Grecian history that Greek ambition, when it could live at all, has dwelt.

Greece Snuffed Out Territorially

The night of Greece's martyrdom was not under the Roman yoke, but in the long period from the fall of Byzantium to modern times. During that time Greece was all but snuffed out territorially, while the blood of its people suffered dilution from the hordes of conquerors and immigrants of almost every nation of Europe that poured in upon it—Albanians, Slavs, Teutons, Spanish, French, Venetians, Turks. In 1669 Turkey finally gained complete dominance of what had been Greece.

Greece, as a nation, was born again in 1829 as a result of a most turbulent war of independence against Turkey, which was at the same time a series of civil wars among contending leaders and factions. The new Greece which emerged under the joint protection of Great Britain, France and Russia comprised, besides the Cyclades Islands and the nearby Peloponnesus, a strip of land about forty miles wide across the peninsula north of the Peloponnesus. It has been the constant ambition of modern Greece to push its boundaries outward from this region which it considers only a nucleus, until much, if not all, of "Hellas irridenta" should be included. This ambition has led to a continuous series of internal crises and external wars.

Now Close to Cherished Ambition

Now, ninety years after the achievement of Greek independence, the territory of the kingdom is approximately three times as great as when it was established. Thanks to the Great War and the dismemberment of Turkey, Greece now includes much of old Macedonia and southern Thrace, practically all of the islands of the Aegean, and a large part of the province of Smyrna on the coast of Asia Minor. The Greek flag flies almost within a stone's throw of the Dardanelles—a bare fifty miles from Constantinople. Greece has advanced far toward attaining her ambition.

The modern Kingdom of the Hellenes—as Greece is officially known—has had five rulers. Not one has served until his natural death or voluntary abdication. The first ruler, president of the abortive Greek Republic, organized before independence was entirely assured, was assassinated. Otto, prince of Bavaria, who was given the throne in 1832, was deposed in 1862. Prince George of Schleswig-Holstein, who was then called to the throne, ruled for fifty-one years, but was assassinated in 1913. His son Constantine was deposed in 1915 because of his sympathy for the German cause. The death of Alexander, who succeeded Constantine, was sudden.

Tear off along this line if desired

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

Anatolia Awakens From Sleep of Ages

ANATOLIA, which in Greek means a rising, is literally living up to its name. The leaven which during the past two or three years has been working such drastic changes in countries in Europe and Asia recently threw this portion of Asia Minor in a ferment.

Anatolia, which lies between the Black and Mediterranean Seas and touches Armenia on the east and Syria on the south, is the home of some 7,000,000 Turks. Even though Mohammedan Turks, these people have suffered almost as much at the hands of their own governing officials as have the subject Greeks and Armenians.

Anatolia Has Been a Melting Pot

The original Turks in this area are descendants of tribes which have drifted in from Central Asia, but into Anatolia's crucible have poured streams from many sources---Turanians, Persians, Armenians and Greeks, warrior tribes, nomads and merchants, many of whom have lost their names and traditions. In fact, most of the earth's animate creatures have at some time passed over it, beginning with chimpanzees, then the descendants of Ham, Shem and Japhet, to the eras of Caesar and Charlie Chaplin. The molten products of the centuries are nomads, who often change a wandering life into one of agriculture, living in houses built of bricks of clay dried in the sun.

The principal wealth of Anatolia lies in its agriculture. Portions of the land are easily worked and fertile, the tract from the Sea of Marmora to Trebizond being particularly rich. Other parts are rocky or are interspersed with salt tracts.

Two-Thirds of Tillable Land Unused

Due to the paucity of a population numbering scarcely twenty-two persons to the square mile, and to the fact that the inhabitants are imbued deeply with the fatalism and suave imperturbability of Mohammedanism, which to the American mind seems about ninety per cent laziness, two-thirds of the tillable area is covered with sprigs and useless weeds.

When the natives bestir themselves and raise the common grains, grapes and olives, cotton, tobacco and poppy-seeds which the land is capable of producing, there are not yet sufficient transportation facilities to take care of the harvests. The Germans saw the possibilities of these regions and were planning, when they shipped railroad ties, steam tractors, and agricultural machinery into the country, practical steps toward the realization of their dream. Now travelers from the Near East tell us that "soon the locomotive, the motor truck, and the airplane will open up Anatolia in a new way, binding it to the world commercially, politically, and geographically, as the historic bridge-land between East and West."

"Urga was formerly the residence of a Chinese lieutenant governor, or 'amban,' as he was called, the representative of the Chinese government. When Mongolia declared herself independent of China, early in 1912, the office was abandoned, the former amban having fled, reasoning that he was not needed.

"There are few regular streets in Urga, with the exception of the main thoroughfare, along which are lines of prayer-wheels, which are sheltered by small shanties or sheds. These are turned by hand by the people who wish to pray. Prayer flags float over all tents and temples and smaller prayer-wheels turn in the wind, while gilt prayer-wheels swing from the roofs of the temples."

Bulletin No. 2, January 10, 1921

Tear off along this line if desired

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

San Marino Living Proof That Peace Endures

FOUNDED by a man whose parting prayer was that it never should increase its territory by violence, San Marino emerges upon the map of the New Europe, from which empires have disappeared and new nations are outlined. With Germany crippled and laid low by an exactly opposite ambition, San Marino remains as an enduring monument to her ideal.

This tiny nation, "our littlest ally," is described by Alice Rohe in a communication to the National Geographic Society as follows:

"The position of San Marino, 13 miles from Rimini, is singular. This little Republic, whose greatest length is 9 miles, is completely surrounded by Italy, who respects its autonomy, as have rulers of the past, with a few fleeting exceptions, since the pious Dalmatian stone-cutter left the mountain to his followers, 'free from every other man.'

Maintained Ideals For Sixteen Centuries

"That this little Republic, which today has 11,000 inhabitants and an area of 38 square miles, has maintained its independence, its ideal of liberty, in the midst of strife and bloodshed, of changing social conditions, for sixteen centuries, adds dignity to the unwavering belief of the trusting ones in the never-ceasing protection of the saintly founder.

"The position of the mountain, far from the great Roman roads, the Via Flaminia and Via Aemilia; sufficiently distant from the coast to be safe from maritime invasion; the stronghold impregnable to assault by medieval armies; the retiring and unostentatious, peace-seeking character of the inhabitants; the comparative poverty of the country—all contributed to San Marino's being left alone. But external reasons were not sufficient—there was an internal cause which existed in its institutions and its morality.

"In the life of the Republic today the influence of the Dalmatian saint is strongly reflected. For a country to maintain the characteristics of its primitive founder is a social phenomenon of which possibly San Marino alone can boast.

Two Stonecutters Founded a Nation

"During the days of Christian persecutions, in the middle of the fourth century, Marino and Leo, two stonecutters of Arbe, Dalmatia, crossed the Adriatic and came to Rimini. Their reason, says tradition, was to aid Christians, condemned by pagan rulers, to reconstruct the walls of that city.

"The walls of Rimini having been finished, Leo and Marino looked longingly upon the solitude of the two mountains. As the hermits of the Thebiad, who flourished at this same period, they sought peace and solitude in those impenetrable heights. Hewing a bed from the rock and cultivating a little garden, Marino found all his material wants supplied. This rough bed and site of the garden are pointed out today by reverent peasants.

Plant Crop; Then Abandon It

At present the farmer tackles his soil with a primitive plow drawn by weak oxen, leaving to the point of the plow, unassisted by any effort of his own, the responsibility for subsoiling. Then he usually encloses his field with a hedge and abandons it until harvest time, satisfied in the belief that his crops will be protected by the whitened skulls of camels and oxen which he fastens on the inside of the hedge.

What is true of the agriculturists is more or less true of the village folk. In towns of about one thousand persons there is not a single business house. The people eke out a living from scratching the soil, and if they possess the means or inclination to purchase even the most insignificant articles they must travel to one of the weekly markets.

These markets form one of the most characteristic and interesting features of life in the Near East, a means by which the people obtain the articles which they need and dispense with the cost of housing industries. Certain days of the week are set aside for trading special articles. On these days the populace barters whatever it can spare for whatever it needs, very little money being used in the transactions.

Tear off along this line if desired

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

Noah Made It Famous: Wanted U. S. to Make It Free

ONE of the states which asked the United States to be its mandatory was Nakhichevan.

If you have not heard of Nakhichevan, first consult Genesis VIII-4, for the district in question lies at the foot of Mt. Ararat, and the town of Nakhichevan contains the alleged graveyard of Noah. The builder of the Ark, local tradition affirms, went down into the land that sought the wing of the United States. There he is said to have died of thirst in the parched plain after his ark had broken up on the snowy peak of the world's most famous mountain.

The Nakhichevan District, inhabited by Tatars, is bounded on the North by the Armenian District of Erivan. Along the south flows the Arax River, which is the subject of many an Armenian song, and which here formed the boundary between Asiatic Russia and Persia. In the hills to the northeast is Shusha, a strong Armenian center, where the Armenians held out against a circle of foes in the summer of 1918.

Traditional Race Jealousy Breaks Out

When Russia's power in the Caucasus declined and the "soldats" flowed back from the former Russian front in Turkey through the Nakhichevan District, the traditional hatred between the Armenians of the Erivan District and the Mohammedan Tatars broke out. This closed the carriage road to Tabriz and later closed the railway. At great risk several members of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, with headquarters at Erivan, went to Tabriz and brought back several million roubles in a train that was so crowded with retreating Russian soldiers that one of the committee members, upholstered with hundreds of thousands of roubles, was forced to sleep on the roof of the car in a temperature near zero. Within a week, the railway service was stopped by Armenian-Tatar fighting.

The uprising of the Nakhichevan Tatars was ill-timed. German propagandists had placarded the district with posters exhorting these Tatars, who are related to the Turks and are of the same religion, to arise against the Armenians, whom the retreating Russians had left to their own devices. This they did. But the Armenians had spent the winter in raising an army to take over the former Russian front and about 25,000 of these volunteers were assembled in Erivan.

Well Filled With Bodies of Defeated Tatars

The Tatars advanced along the railway (Tiflis to Tabriz), and met serious resistance first at Kamarlyu, eighty miles from the city of Nakhichevan. There was some spirited fighting and the Tatars were soon defeated and at least one well was filled with their dead bodies. Women and children were not touched by the Armenians. By circling between

"A few slaves followed their former overseers in order to practice, undisturbed, their Christian faith.

Many Came Seeking Peace

"From neighboring fields and pastures and little settlements, came the weary and oppressed, seeking peace and the Christian faith upon the two mounts. Poor and simple people, their wants were easily satisfied. Soon two small villages or colonies sprang up about the little churches, taking the names of the two apostles. The influence of San Leo has been wiped out by the centuries, while that of San Marino exists today.

"Marino's desire was to found a free society, based upon liberty, justice, simplicity, charity, virtue, and, above all, a love of peace. When the good man came to die he called his followers about him and bequeathed to them his mountain, 'free from every other man.' His parting prayer was that they never seek enlargement of territory by violent means. War, though a painful necessity for those acting in self-defense, was an unpardonable crime in those who caused it. Begging his followers to remain true to the faith and to live in perfect accord, freemen all, he passed away, little dreaming that in the twentieth century his little community would stand, a monument to his peaceful teachings and simple form of government, in the midst of a war-torn world."

Bulletin No. 4, January 10, 1921

STONE QUARRIES BENEATH THE ANCIENT WALLS OF SAN MARINO

The twentieth century Sammarinesi follow assiduously the occupation of their fourth century patron saint. Stone is carted to Rimini, Forli, and neighboring Italian towns. The photograph gives some idea of the rugged height on which the little republic is perched

Kamarlyu and Mount Ararat along the wide plain of the Arax, the Tatars reached the junction of Ulukhanlu and burned the railway station there, also cutting the Indo-European telegraph line which joins Tiflis to the rest of the world. This necessitated the sending of Vice Consul Doolittle to Teheran in order to establish connection with Washington at a time when all Americans were being forced to leave Tiflis.

When the writer crossed the Igdir plain, where Armenians are starving today, these much persecuted people were having their innings and the smoke from a score of burning Tatar villages could be seen. Tatars with arms were allowed to live if they surrendered their guns and women and children were not touched, but their villages were looted and burned by the Armenians. This was in March, 1919. All the Tatars retreated to the Nakhichevan District, where they formed a majority of the population. There they have remained. Hatred between them and the Armenians is strong, but due to the greater strength of the Armenians there are no atrocities.

The whole problem is made difficult by the diversity of the population. In the mountain villages the Kurds are most numerous. A strong hand will be necessary to control these several tribes. The Kurds have been forced to be butchers by the Turks, who gave them guns as their only tools and who kept agriculture and education from them. Their condition was as bad for a time as that of the Armenians and along the Turko-Russian boundary scores of Kurds were to be seen with only one garment and barefoot in March at an altitude of seven thousand feet.

Bulletin No. 5, January 10, 1921

Used by permission of National Geographic Society. © by Keystone View Co., 1920

THE ROYAL PALACE: ATHENS

To this palace King Constantine has been recalled unexpectedly from exile in Switzerland